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66/67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 OES-03

/109 W

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R 140109Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1180

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION SUSUN NY

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 10048 VICE 11048

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, MX

SUBJ: EHCEVERRIA'S REMARKS ON MEXICAN-US RELATIONS

REF: MEXICO 10001

1. SUMMARY: DURING THE SATURDAY LUNCHEON HELD FOR VISITING PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA MADE SEVERAL CUTTING REMAKRS ON US-MEXICAN RELATIONS. HIS REMARKS ON THE SAME SUBJECT AT TUESDAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE WERE (SOMEWHAT) MORE GENEROUS. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE SATURDAY LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF ANKER JERGENSN, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA GAVE A LONG EXTEMPORANEOUS MONOLOGUE LARGELY CONCERNING MEXICAN-US RELATIONS. HAVING FINISHED HIS
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WRITTEN WELCOMING SPEECH, ECHEVERRIA LAUNCHED INTO AN IM-

PROVIDED HARANGUE WHICH WAS SIMULTANEOUSLY A CAPSULE HISTORY OF MEXICO, AN APOLOGY FOR INEQUITABLE INCOME DISTRIBUTION AND A DEFENSE OF MEXICAN FOREIGN POLICY.

3. IN REFERRING TO THE SLOW INCORPORATION OF THE MARGINAL CLASSES INTO MEXICAN SOCIETY, ECHEVERRIA STATED: "IT HAS NOT BEEN EASY TO LIVE NEXT TO THE GREATEST ECONOMIC, NUCLEAR, AND COMMERCIAL POWER IN THE WORLD." THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT NOT ONLY HAD MEXICO LOST HALF ITS TERRITORY IN AN "UNJUST WAR" AT THE MIDDLE OF THE LAST CENTURY, BUT EVEN TODAY "GROUPS WITH A COLONIAL MENTALITY THINK THAT THE BEST IN THE WORLD IS IN ANY LITTLE VILLAGE OF TEXAS OR CALIFORNIA AND THAT HAPPINESS IS TO BE FOUND IN MANHATTAN OR IN NEW YORK."

4. ECHEVERRIA ALSO DEFENDED MEXICO'S RAPPROCHMENT WITH ALL MAJOR POWERS AND ADDED: "WITH RESPECT TO OUR POWERFUL NEIGHBORS OF THE NORTH, WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED TO THEM THAT WE WANT TO BE FRIENDS AND NOT SERVANTS. THE GREAT POWERS WITH ONE IDEOLOGICAL TENDENCY OR ANOTHER TEND TO BE EXPANSIONISTS, INTERVENTIONISTS IN THE SMALL AND MIDDLESIZED COUNTRIES. AND WHEN A COUNTRY IS NOT A MILITARY OR ECONOMIC POWER, IT HAS TO FIND... FRIENDS IN ORDER TO DEFEND ITSELF, TO ASSERT ITSELF, TO SAFEGUARD ITS INTERESTS; BUT THAT IMPLIES AS WELL TO PRESERVE ITS LIBERTIES IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS." (THE LATTER REMARKS WERE INTERPRETED IN THE NEWS ACCOUNT AS AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO BELIZE AND PANAMA.)

5. AT THE TUESDAY PRESS CONFERENCE HELD PRIOR TO JORGENSEN'S DEPARTURE, ECHEVERRIA'S REMARKS WERE SOMEWHAT MORE CONCILIATORY. HE ALLEGED THAT MEXICAN-US RELATIONS WERE FRIENDLY BECAUSE HIS ADMINISTRATION FOR FIVE YEARS HAD BEEN OUTLINING ITS POSITIONS "WITH DECISION AND CANDOR ... AND DEFENDING OUR INTERESTS OPENLY AND IN THE FRANKEST MANNER". HE ALLUDED TO "OVERT OR VEILED" US OPPOSITION TO CERDS, NAMCUAR, AND SELA AND SUGGESTED THAT THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH DO NOT SPEAK FRANKLY TO THE "GREAT EMPIRES, THE LARGE EXPANSIONIST COUNTRIES, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR IDEOLOGICAL ATTITUDE" RISK PERMANENT MEDDLING (IN THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERNAL AFFAIRS).

6. ON A MORE POSITIVE NOTE, ECHEVERRIA PRAISED FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON FOR KEEPING HIS PROMISE TO SOLVE THE COLORADO SALINITY PROBLEM. AND HE INDICATED THAT THE US HAD KEPT A STRICTLY HANDS-OFF POLICY REGARDING MEXICAN INTERNAL POLITICS. DURING THE RECENT PRE-CANDIDACY PERIOD, HE STATED, "THERE WAS NOT EVEN A SINGLE QUESTION

ON THE PART OF THE US" AS TO WHICH WOULD RECEIVE THE
PRI'S NOMINATION. THUS, HE SAID, RELATIONS WERE "PRETTY
GOOD" AFTER ALMOST TWO CENTURIES OF DIFFICULT ONES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MEXICO10048
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750400-0251
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751142/aaaablhp.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MEXICO 10001
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <19 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EHCEVERRIA'S REMARKS ON MEXICAN-US RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, OVIP, MX, DA, US, (ECHEVERRIA ALVAREZ, LUIS), (JORGENSEN, ANKER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006